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TELEGRAM

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ACTION MA-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ADS-00 /013 M

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FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 647

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

UNCLAS PESHAWAR 0147

FOR MA ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, SHUN, SREF, AF, U.S.

SUBJECT: U.S. MEDICAL CARE FOR WAR-WOUNDED AFGHAN CIVILIAN

REF: PESH 110, STATE 106642, 126333

1. MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT RESPONSE AND WISHINGNESS TO ASSIST WITH THIS MOST DESERVING CASE. JANILA REMAINS IN KHYBER HOSPITAL WHERE I HAVE VISITED HER AGAIN AND DISCUSSED CASE SEVERAL TIMES WITH CONCERNED PHYSICIANS.

2. KHYBER DOCTORS, SINCE EXCHANGE OF REF 5 A; AND B, HAVE LEARNED MORE ABOUT CAPABILITIES FOR PLASTIC SURGERY IN KARACHI. A U.S. TRAINED PLASTIC SURGEON, DR. KHALID DURRANI, PRACTICES AT DOW MEDICAL HOSPITAL THERE. BY COINCIDENCE, DR. DURRANI HAS RECENTLY BEGUN RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY ON ANOTHER AFGHAN WOMAN WITH A VERY SIMILAR WAR-WOUND. DURRANI IS REPORTEDLY BANGUINE ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF ASSISTING JANILA AS WELL.

3. DOCTORS AT KHYBER TELL ME THAT JANILA CANNOT UNDERGO SURGERY UNTIL THE END OF HER PREGNANCY TERM (ABOUT 1-1/2 MONTHS) THEY DO THINK, HOWEVER, THAT SHE SHOULD BE MOVED FROM THE OVER CROWDED AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS OF KHYBER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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4. ON QUESTION OF WHETHER U.S. OR PAKISTAN TREATMENT IS MOST

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DESIRABLE. DOCTORS ARE DIVIDED. ALL RECOGNIZE THAT U.S. FACILITIES ARE SUPERIOR, AND ALL EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR OUR INITIATIVES TO DATE. HOWEVER, ON BALANCE, MOST THINK THAT, GIVEN JAMILA'S CULTURAL BACKGROUND, LOCAL TREATMENT WOULD BE MOST SENSIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF DR. DURRANI'S RECENT EXPERIENCE.

5. MOST IMPORTANTLY, KARACHI HOSPITALIZATION WOULD ALLOW JAMILA TO HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS AS COMPANIONS/ATTENDENTS. THIS PRACTICE, ALMOST UNIVERSAL HERE, WOULD BE ALMOST OUT OF THE QUESTION IN THE U.S. ACCORDING TO PHYSICIANS, THE LONG PERIOD OF HOSPITALIZATION WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED WOULD, FOR A SIMPLE VILLAGE WOMAN, MAKE A PUSHY-SPEAKING COMPANION MOST DESIRABLE. THIS FACTOR, THEY THINK, IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO OUT-WEIGHT ADVANTAGE OF SUPERIOR FACILITIES IN U.S.

6. OTHER FACTORS IN FAVOR OF KARACHI ARE EASE OF TRANSPORTATION (THUS AVOIDING PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTING STRETCHER PATIENT WHO IS IN LATE STAGE OF PREGNANCY) AND COST. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, TOTAL COSTS FOR TREATMENT IN KARACHI COULD BE AS LOW AS DOLLARS ONE THOUSAND.

7. ON BALANCE, I WOULD AGREE THAT IT IS PROBABLY BEST TO SEEK TREATMENT IN KARACHI. THUS, IT APPEARS THAT U.S. ARRANGEMENTS WILL NOT BE NEEDED, AT LEAST AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, THERE IS SCOPE FOR U.S. ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST JAMILA AND OTHER WAR-WOUNDED AFGHAN CIVILIANS BY PICKING UP BILLS FOR TREATMENT AND RELATED EXPENSES. I PLAN TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH HENRY HAMMAN, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN RELIEF COMMITTEE, WHO IS EXPECTED HERE SOON.

8. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORTS. I HOPE THAT I MAY AGAIN
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REQUEST YOUR HELP IF IT APPEARS NECESSARY, FOR EXAMPLE,
IF KARACHI TREATMENT DOES NOT WORK OUT.
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